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Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Democratic Republic of the Congo: draft resolution

Special economic assistance to central African countries receiving refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions",

Recalling its resolution 49/24 of 2 December 1994,

Bearing in mind the serious crisis which has shaken central Africa to its very foundations, the result of which has caused the massive flow of refugees in the territories of neighbouring countries, namely, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania,

Conscious of the situation of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in central Africa,

Welcoming the prospects for the voluntary return of refugees and durable solutions throughout central Africa,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to their voluntary return,

Deeply concerned about the evident impact of these massive flows of refugees on the basic infrastructure and on the life and property of local populations in the host countries,

Also bearing in mind the large-scale material destruction, the deterioration of the economic, social and health infrastructure and the ecological devastation in the areas receiving refugees,

Gravely concerned by the effects which epidemics in those areas are having on the health of the populations of the countries receiving refugees,

Aware of the need to improve the security situation in the region, particularly in the border areas, for the safety of the refugees and the local community,

Observing that the humanitarian aid dispatched to those areas should as far as possible take into consideration the scale of the needs of the local populations,

Recognizing that the countries receiving refugees, most of them least developed countries, continue to experience an extremely critical economic situation,

Expressing again its appreciation to the Governments of the countries receiving refugees for the sacrifices which they are making in granting refuge and hospitality to them,

Concerned about the paucity of the aid granted to the local populations of the countries receiving refugees, and stressing the need to continue providing and to step up special assistance to those countries,

Realizing the importance of assisting the host countries, in particular those countries that have been hosting refugees for a long time, to remedy environmental deterioration and the negative effects on public services and the development process,

1. Expresses its deep concern at the grave social, economic, health and ecological impact of the massive and unexpected presence of refugees in those countries;

2. Commends again the Governments of Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania for the sacrifices which they have made and for their continuing commitment to do their utmost to assist refugees, notwithstanding the constraints which their limited resources place upon them;

3. Expresses its gratitude to all States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the financial, technical and material assistance they have been providing to those countries that have been receiving refugees since the onset of the crisis and for the humanitarian assistance they have continued to render to refugees and the host countries, and calls upon them to continue to provide assistance for

the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by the massive presence of refugees in the host countries;

4. Urges all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and calls upon the international financial and development institutions that have not yet provided financial, technical and material assistance, to do so with a view to facilitating the restoration of the basic services destroyed in the countries receiving refugees;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the follow-up to the present resolution.